Man power norms for RRBs

3697. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Man Power norms issued to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have not taken the criteria of branch-wise business or Head Office-wise workload;

(b) what is the number of staff going to be surplus as a result of these norms;

(c) the increase in the business/profits during the last ten years, after recruitments were stopped in RRBs; and

(d) whether Government are justified in recruiting the so-called excess staff upto 1990-91 or whether there is any change in policy of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per man power norms introduced recently the overall strength of staff in Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) is to be worked out on an average 4.0 per unit, however, the RRBs are allowed to have additional manpower at the rate of 0.10 staff in officer cadre for every 10 percentage point increase in C.D. ratio over and above 60 per cent provided further that the gross NPA of such banks are lower by 5 per cent as compared to the national average for RRBs and their number of loan accounts per branch in respect of outstanding loans are atleast 5 per cent more than the national average. The sponsor banks have been advised to assess the surplus/shortage of staff in terms of aforesaid man power norms and take managerial decisions as per powers delegated to them.

(c) The deposits of RRBs have increased from Rs. 5867.83 crore during 1991-92 to Rs. 38271.87 crore during 2000-01. The outstanding advances have increased from Rs. 4090.86 crore to Rs. 15814.89 crore during the same period. The total profit of RRBs has increased from Rs. 12.95 crore during 1991-92 to Rs. 676.47 crore during 2000-01. The accumulated losses have also been

increased from Rs. 621.00 crore in 1991-92 to Rs. 2792.59 crore in 2000-01.

(d) The RRBs were undergoing expansion phase and as such the branch net work of RRBs was widened and recruitment of staff took place upto 1990. Subsequently the RRBs have been advised to undergo consolidation of their financial position.

Customs duty on non-cooking coal

3698. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the operations of the power plants which use imported coal were affected due to hike in customs duty on non-cooking coal which let to a direct use in the price of electricity; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Keeping in view the interests of the domestic coal industry, no change has been made in the rates of customs duty on coal.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Reforms

3699. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Cabinet Committee on Economic Reforms to accelerate second generation reforms and boost economy has been set up;

(b) if so, the terms of reference and specific purpose of the Committee;

(c) the concrete suggestions or guidelines given by the Committee on various aspects of economic reforms;